

INDEPENDENT PILOTS ASSOCIATION



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PRESS RELEASE

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IPA ENDORSES REQUEST BY ASHRAE TO INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE REQUIREMENTS FOR BLEED AIR CONTAMINANT MONITORING AND SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT BLEED AIR CONTAMINATION ON AIRCRAFT.

The Independent Pilots Association (IPA), the UK's second largest representative body for commercial pilots, endorses the request made 6th March 2009 by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to, this year, investigate and determine the requirements for bleed air contaminant monitoring and solutions to prevent bleed air contamination.

The air supplied to passenger cabins on aircraft, known as bleed air, is unfiltered and can sometimes become contaminated with pyrolised engine oil or hydraulic fluid and yet there are no systems fitted to detect such fume events.

Exposure to such fume events can cause short and long term health effects to the extent that some pilots have had their medical certificate withdrawn and therefore lose their livelihood.

The IPA applauds ASHRAE for making this request and sees it as a proactive step to overcoming a flight safety hazard overlooked by others. It can only be hoped that EASA and the FAA respond in a similar positive manner.

End